



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**Washington, DC 20423**

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

[Agency]  
[Address]

November 3, 2005

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

This letter requests your views on a rail line construction project being proposed by Roquette America, Inc. (Roquette) that is the subject of environmental review by the Surface Transportation Board (Board). The Board is an independent agency within the United States Department of Transportation that has jurisdiction over railroad construction and operations.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Board's rules, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed rail construction project and the reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposal. Under NEPA and applicable rules of the Board and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required if the proposed project would have significant environmental impacts. If the proposed project appears unlikely to have significant environmental impacts, then an Environmental Assessment (EA) may be prepared instead. By this letter, SEA is beginning the process of gathering information leading to its decision about which type of NEPA document is appropriate for this proposal.

Description of the Proposed Rail Project

Roquette owns and operates a corn processing facility in Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa, where it produces corn-based starches and syrups used in food and drinks, as well as paper products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and agricultural goods. Currently, the corn processing facility receives rail service exclusively from the Keokuk Junction Railway (KJR). Roquette intends to file a petition with the Board, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502, for authority to construct and operate an approximately 250-foot rail line that would connect existing rail infrastructure at Roquette's corn processing facility with an existing rail line of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF). Accordingly, the proposed rail line would provide Roquette with competitive rail service.

Roquette's corn processing facility is in an area primarily used for industrial activities and is located on the banks of the Mississippi River. At this time, there are two potential routes

for the proposed rail line. The first route would involve constructing a rail line track owned and operated by KJR. The alternative route would involve construction that would cross existing KJR track and one public road, Riverview Avenue. Riverview Avenue is a two-lane, light density road maintained by the City of crossings would be designed in accordance with industry standards, customs. environmental document will evaluate both routes, as well as a no-build alternative reasonable alternatives.

The proposed rail line would be used to transport shipments of primary facility and corn syrup and other corn derivatives from the facility. Roquette traffic would generally consist of one outbound train per day with approximately railcars, with the same train returning to the Roquette facility. Roquette currently require service 6 days a week. Attached for your review is a USGS 7.5 minute showing the location of the proposed project area and existing rail facilities.

#### Agency Consultation

At this time, I would like to request your comments or concerns regarding this project. Any information you can provide relating to the following issues will be a determination of what environmental issues should be addressed in the environmental

- Local land use
- Existing transportation system
- Air emissions and ambient air quality
- Energy use
- Water quality and wetlands
- Ambient noise levels
- Historic sites, archaeological sites, or cultural resources
- Socioeconomics (population, employment, growth, and development)
- Threatened and endangered species and wildlife

Information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate is appreciated. Please provide comments to Christa Dean of my staff at:

Christa Dean  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423

We request your response by December 5, 2005, so that we may be able to schedule meetings, site visits, or surveys, conduct any necessary follow-up activities, and incorporate your response into the scope of the study, as appropriate.



for the proposed rail line. The first route would involve constructing a rail line that would cross track owned and operated by KJR. The alternative route would involve constructing a rail line that would cross existing KJR track and one public road, Riverview Avenue, at grade. Riverview Avenue is a two-lane, light density road maintained by the City of Keokuk. Both crossings would be designed in accordance with industry standards, customs, and practices. The environmental document will evaluate both routes, as well as a no-build alternative and any other reasonable alternatives.

The proposed rail line would be used to transport shipments of primarily corn to the facility and corn syrup and other corn derivatives from the facility. Roquette expects that the traffic would generally consist of one outbound train per day with approximately 8 to 10 loaded railcars, with the same train returning to the Roquette facility. Roquette currently plans to require service 6 days a week. Attached for your review is a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map showing the location of the proposed project area and existing rail facilities.

#### Agency Consultation

At this time, I would like to request your comments or concerns regarding the proposed rail project. Any information you can provide relating to the following issues will assist SEA in its determination of what environmental issues should be addressed in the environmental document:

- Local land use
- Existing transportation system
- Air emissions and ambient air quality
- Energy use
- Water quality and wetlands
- Ambient noise levels
- Historic sites, archaeological sites, or cultural resources
- Socioeconomics (population, employment, growth, and development)
- Threatened and endangered species and wildlife

Information on any additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate would also be appreciated. Please provide comments to Christa Dean or my staff at:

Christa Dean  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423

We request your response by December 5, 2005, so that we may be able to schedule any meetings, site visits, or surveys, conduct any necessary follow-up activities, and incorporate your response into the scope of the study, as appropriate.

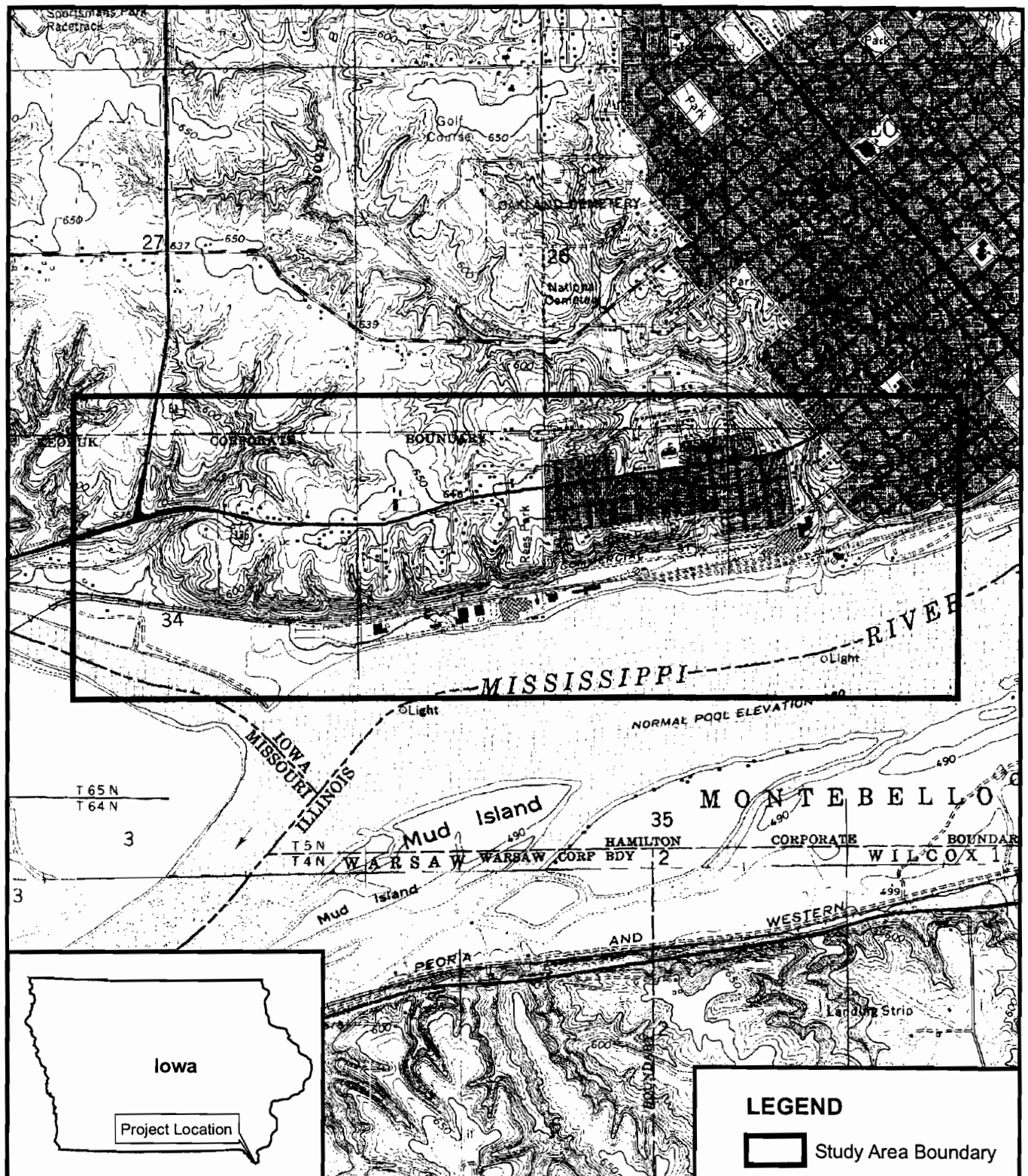
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christa Dean of my staff at (202) 565-1606 or Steve Thornhill, SEA's third-party contractor assisting us in the environmental review, at (816) 822-3851. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping underline.

Victoria Rutson  
Chief  
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosure



Source: USGS Topographic Quadrangles:  
Keokuk, IA & Warsaw, MO.

0 2,000  
Feet

1 inch equals 2,000 feet



# LEGEND

 Study Area Boundary

General Location  
Keokuk, Iowa



To: Christa Dean  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Date: November 3, 2005  
Project: 39834

Christa:

Enclosed is a sample of the agency contact letter and site location map, as well as the list of agencies contacted. The agency contact letters and site location maps were sent out November 3, 2005. Please forward copies of all responses to:

Jamie Precht  
Burns and McDonnell  
9400 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64114

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (816) 333-9400 x 2571 or email at [jprecht@burnsmcd.com](mailto:jprecht@burnsmcd.com).

No. of Copies	Description and Remarks
1	Sample agency contact letter
1	Project general location map
1	Agency contact list

Very truly yours,  
BURNS & MCDONNELL ENGINEERING COMPANY  
By

Jamie Precht  
Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Studies and Permitting

cc: Steve Thornhill

## Agency Contacts

NRCS  
Donnellson Service Center  
503 Elm  
Donnellson, IA 52625

Iowa State Historical Society  
Mr. Doug Jones  
State of Iowa Historical Bldg.  
600 East Locust  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0290

US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock  
Island  
ATTN: Operations Division  
Clock Tower Building  
Post Office Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Rock Island Field Office  
Attn: Richard Nelson  
4469 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. Court  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Iowa DNR  
Jeffrey R. Vonk  
502 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Keokuk City Offices  
Planning Office  
Bill Richards  
415 Blondeau Street  
Keokuk, IA 52632

Mayor David Gudgel  
415 Blondeau Street  
Keokuk, IA 52632

Iowa Department of Transportation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50010

Office of the State Archaeologist  
Colleen Eck  
700 South Clinton Street Building  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1030

EPA Region 7  
Office of External Programs  
901 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101

National Geodetic Survey  
Attn: Richard A. Snay  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

NRCS  
639 Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

USFWS – Region 3  
One Federal Drive BHW Federal Bldg  
Fort Snelling  
Twin Cities, MN 55111

U.S. Dpt. Of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Midwest Region  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency  
Management  
Hoover State Office Bldg.  
1305 E. Walnut, Level A  
Des Moines, IA 50319

FEMA – Region VII  
2323 Grand Boulevard  
Suite 900  
Kansas City, MO 64108



Lee County Emergency Management  
Agency  
Attn: Stephen A. Cirinna  
811 Avenue E  
P.O. Box 240  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Lee County Board of Supervisors  
933 Avenue H  
P.O. Box 488  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce  
329 Main Street  
Keokuk, IA 52632

Lee County Conservation Board  
P.O. Box 218  
2652 Hwy 61  
Montrose, IA 52639

Lee County Emergency Management  
P.O. Box 240  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Lee County Engineer and Secondary  
Roads  
933 Avenue H  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning  
Commission, Dpt. Of Transportation  
200 Front Street, Suite 400  
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Division for Community Progress  
Iowa Department of Economic  
Development  
200 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Iowa DNR – Air Quality Bureau  
7900 Hickman Rd., Suite 1  
Urbandale, IA 50322

Office of the Governor  
Governor Tom Vilsack  
State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Iowa Dpt of Human Services  
933 Avenue H  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Environmental Services Division  
Attn: Wayne Gieselman  
Iowa DNR  
502 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Conservation and Recreation Division  
Attn: Ken Herring  
Iowa DNR  
502 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Keokuk City Council Chambers  
415 Blondeau Street  
Keokuk, IA 52362

Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska  
Route 1, Box 58A  
White Cloud, KS 66094

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma  
R.R. 1, Box 721  
Perkins, OK 74059

Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas  
and Nebraska  
305 N. Main Street  
Hiawatha, KS 66434

Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma  
Route 2, Box 246  
Stroud, OK 74079

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in  
Iowa  
349 Meskwaki Road  
Tama, IA 52339